



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

June 6, 2019

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 74322 411A Highland Ave
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144
Via email: 74392-75779829@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter is regarding to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of June 4, 2019, assigned #19-00847-FOIA, for:

Documents mentioning or relating to Anonymous (the hacker movement/collective, see below) or hactivism (defined as hacking as a form of protest and/or activism) generated between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2019, including but not limited to:

- * Internal reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to Anonymous or hactivism
- * Reports from the appropriate IT (Information Technology) or computer offices regarding possible cyber attacks by Anonymous or other hactivists
- * Reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to or mentioning Anonymous or hactivism sent to or received from any federal law enforcement or intelligence agencies or any fusion center
- * Incident reports investigating possible hacking activity falling within the office's jurisdiction and allegedly carried out by members of Anonymous or other hactivist groups
- * Materials generated as a result of any suspected or actual compromise, breach or "dox" (revealing of personal or private information) by Anonymous or other hactivists

Anonymous has been described by government agencies as a non-hierarchical hactivist collective, Anonymous uses hacking (and arguably cracking) techniques to register political protest in campaigns known as "#ops." Best known for their distributed denial of services (DDoS) attacks, past activities have included attacks against the Church of Scientology; Vias, Paypal, and others who withdrew their services from WikiLeaks' Julian Assange after that group began releasing war documents: #OpTunisia and others purporting to support the Arab Spring; and a campaign that brought down the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. #Ops are usually marked with the release of a video of a reader in a Guy Fawkes mask using a computer generated voice. See attached for additional background information.

This letter is to notify you that your request is overly broad and to seek your clarification regarding the subject matter of the records you seek. The FOIA allows the public to request access to “reasonably described” existing agency records (subject to any applicable FOIA exemptions to disclosure). This means you must describe the category of records you are seeking or the actual document(s), and provide sufficient details to permit a search with reasonable effort, utilizing existing indices and search tools.

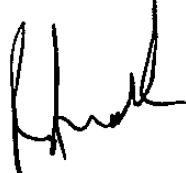
Your request seeks information regarding unspecified “...possible hacking activity...” Additionally, you seek “Materials generated as a result of any suspected or actual compromise, breach or ‘dox’ (revealing of personal or private information) by Anonymous or other hacktivists” for a 10 year period. A search this broad cannot be accomplished by the agency with reasonable effort.

To assist the agency to conduct a reasonable search, please provide our office with additional information, such as: a request for a record by its title; a particular event or incident; a narrow date range for records; full names and accurate titles of individual(s) discussing the subject of your request; a specific subject matter; and/or, the precise document you seek.

At this time, your request has been placed on hold until we receive the information requested. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Emerique Magyar at 770-488-6359.

If we do not receive a response from you by July 5, 2019, we will consider your request withdrawn and it will be closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Andoh".

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852